

REMARKS

The Office Action of March 19, 2007, has been carefully reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto. By this amendment, claims 5, 7, 10-14, 18, 21 and 22 have been amended to place them in condition for allowance, claims 1 and 15 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and new claims 23-28 have been added. Claims 2-14 and 16-28 thus remain pending in this application. Reconsideration and allowance of the instant application are respectfully requested.

Allowable subject matter

Applicant thanks Examiner Epps for indicating that claims 2-4, 16, 17 and 20 are allowed.

Claims 5, 7, 10-14 and 21 have been amended to depend from allowed independent claim 2. Further, claims 18 and 22 have been amended to depend from allowed independent claim 16. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-14 and 16-22 are in condition for allowance.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 5-10, 12, 15, 18, 19 and 21-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. patent no. 4,465,277 to Dittrich (Dittrich), in view of U.S. patent no. 6,402,644 to Stanford et al. (Stanford).

Claims 1 and 15 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. As noted above, claims 5-10, 12, 18, 19 and 21-22 have been amended to depend from allowed independent claims 2 and 16.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 5-10, 12, 18, 19 and 21-22 are in condition for allowance.

New claims

New claims 23-28 depend from allowed independent claims 2, 15 and 20 and, thus, are allowable along with their respective base claim and further in view of the novel features recited therein.

Conclusion

Based on the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully urged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the below-listed number.

Respectfully submitted,

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.

Dated: June 19, 2007

By: /Anthony W. Kandare/
Anthony W. Kandare, reg. no. 48,830

1100 13th St., N. W., Suite 1200
Washington, D. C. 20005-4051
Telephone: (202) 824-3000
Facsimile: (202) 824-3001